GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3340
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
DAMAGE TO CROPS DUE TO INSECTS
Singh Shri Suraj;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable damage to crops is caused by the insects annually in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise and the remedial action taken thereon;

(c) whether more production in the agricultural sector can be achieved through the scientific use of insecticides and pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The annual crop losses due to insect pests, weeds and diseases etc. are assessed to be ranging between 10 to 30% of crop production, depending on various factors.

(b): Major incidence of pests/diseases on different crops reported State-wise during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given at the annexure. As regards remedial action, besides issue of advisory recommendations to the farming community for the management of these pests, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) modules have been developed and validated in farmers` fields. These IPM modules involve cultural methods, release of bio-control agents and need based use of pesticides alongwith other pest management practices.

(c): More production in the agricultural sector can be achieved by reducing the crop losses through the scientific and timely use of insecticides and pesticides.

(d): The Government is promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Central Integrated Pest Management Centres have been established across the country to, inter-alia, undertake pest surveillance and provide advisories to the State Governments on pest management including the need based use of pesticides, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers` Field Schools, encourage use of biological means of pest management, etc. The package of practices of IPM for major crops have been developed and circulated to all States and the Union Territories. These packages have also been made available on the web site of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for the use of extension functionaries and farmers.